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1. At a meeting in Vienna on 15 February 1952, the international trade union of metal workers (affiliated with the WFTU) decided to hold an international conference of metal workers in Berlin on 18-19 July 1952 in opposition to the Schuman Plan. The date was subsequently changed to late September.
2. Invitations to the conference were sent out in June by Emil Otto, member of the administrative committee of the international union, with the date line Berlin, Unter den Linden 13 (Office of the East German Metal-Workers' Union). The affiliated unions in the countries participating in the Schuman Plan were invited to send delegates. Otto's letter said in part: "The main purpose of this meeting is to work out a common production programme for the metal workers of those plants which are to be included in the coal and steel pool. The schedule for discussion includes the situation of the metal workers in the Schuman-Plan countries and decisions as to measures to hinder the execution of the Schuman Plan; speaker, Colleague Emil Otto, President of the Central Committee of the Industrial Union Metal in the DDR".
3. The German union promised to defray all traveling expenses of the delegates during their stay in East Germany.

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